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Geneva, 2-27 July 2001
Item 1 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Ecuador, ** **New Zealand**** and **Yugoslavia:**** **draft decision**

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolutions 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly requested the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 36/121 D of 10 December 1981, 42/130 of 7 December 1987, 45/138 of 14 December 1990, 48/115 of 20 December 1993, 49/171 of 23 December 1994, 50/228 of 7 June 1996, 51/72 of 12 December 1998, 54/143 of 17 December 1999 and 55/72 of 4 December 2000, in which it provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee, takes note of the requests to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 27 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1] the letter dated 3 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[2] and the letter dated 20 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[3] and recommends that the Assembly take a decision at its fifty-sixth session on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from fifty-eight to sixty-one States.

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* E/2001/100.
** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
[1] E/2001/52.
[2] E/2001/4.
[3] E/2001/49.

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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mikhail Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/206

Working arrangements for the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides to adopt the following working arrangements for the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2001:

I. Topics for the panel discussions

The Council decides that the topics for the panel discussions for the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2001 will be:

Natural disaster preparedness and response measures

With the aid of specific case studies, the participants in this panel can help draw lessons from recent natural disaster experiences such as droughts, earthquakes and floods. The main objective would be to ascertain the adequacy, effectiveness and impact of the humanitarian assistance provided to affected communities in order to support the future preparedness and response measures of national authorities, local communities and the international community, and to examine the means to improve coordination of the assistance provided by the United Nations system.

The panellists to be invited should include those experts from the field who have been involved in the preparedness and response efforts of the case studies presented. These may include selected agency representatives as well as national experts.

* E/2001/100.

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Emergency humanitarian assistance for groups with special needs

This panel will focus on humanitarian assistance, in particular to women and other groups with special needs in emergency humanitarian situations resulting from conflict situations and natural disasters, with particular emphasis on (a) the efforts of the United Nations system and its partners to address the specific needs of women, children, the elderly and the disabled; and (b) the contribution of women to the relief and subsequent rehabilitation efforts in their communities.

The panellists to be invited should include those experts from United Nations agencies, national experts and experts from the field involved in humanitarian assistance to women and groups with special needs. Individual case studies will be considered.

II. Programme of work

The Council also decides that the programme of work of the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2001 should be as follows:

Wednesday, 11 July

Morning session	General discussion on the report of the Secretary-General on the further progress in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and on the theme of the segment
Afternoon session	Continuation of the general discussion

Thursday, 12 July

Morning session	Panel discussion on natural disaster preparedness and response measures
Afternoon session	Panel discussion on emergency humanitarian assistance for groups with special needs

Friday, 13 July

Morning session	Continuation and conclusion of the general discussion
Afternoon session	Presentation of the Vice-President's summary and conclusion of the segment

III. Outcome

The Council decides that the outcome of the humanitarian affairs segment will be in the form of a Vice-President's summary.

IV. Informal briefings

The Council also decides that, with the aim of acquainting delegations of the topics under discussion, two informal briefings will be organized prior to the holding of the humanitarian affairs segment on the topics of the panel discussions, namely natural disaster preparedness and response measures and emergency humanitarian assistance for groups with special needs.